Le théâtre de B

Asumiko Nakamura

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by Nakamura Asumiko

Chapter 3

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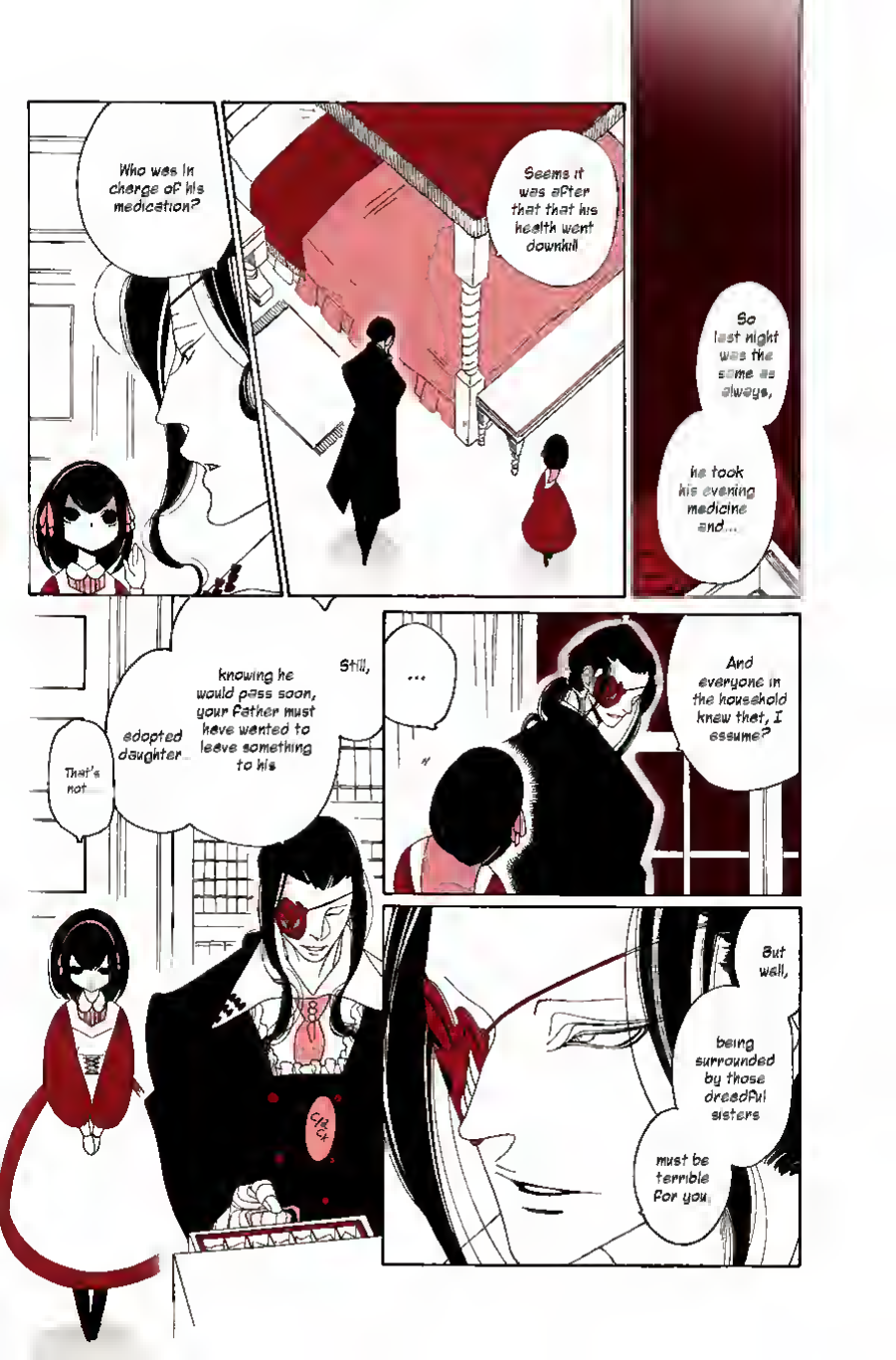
The Four Sisters Murder Case

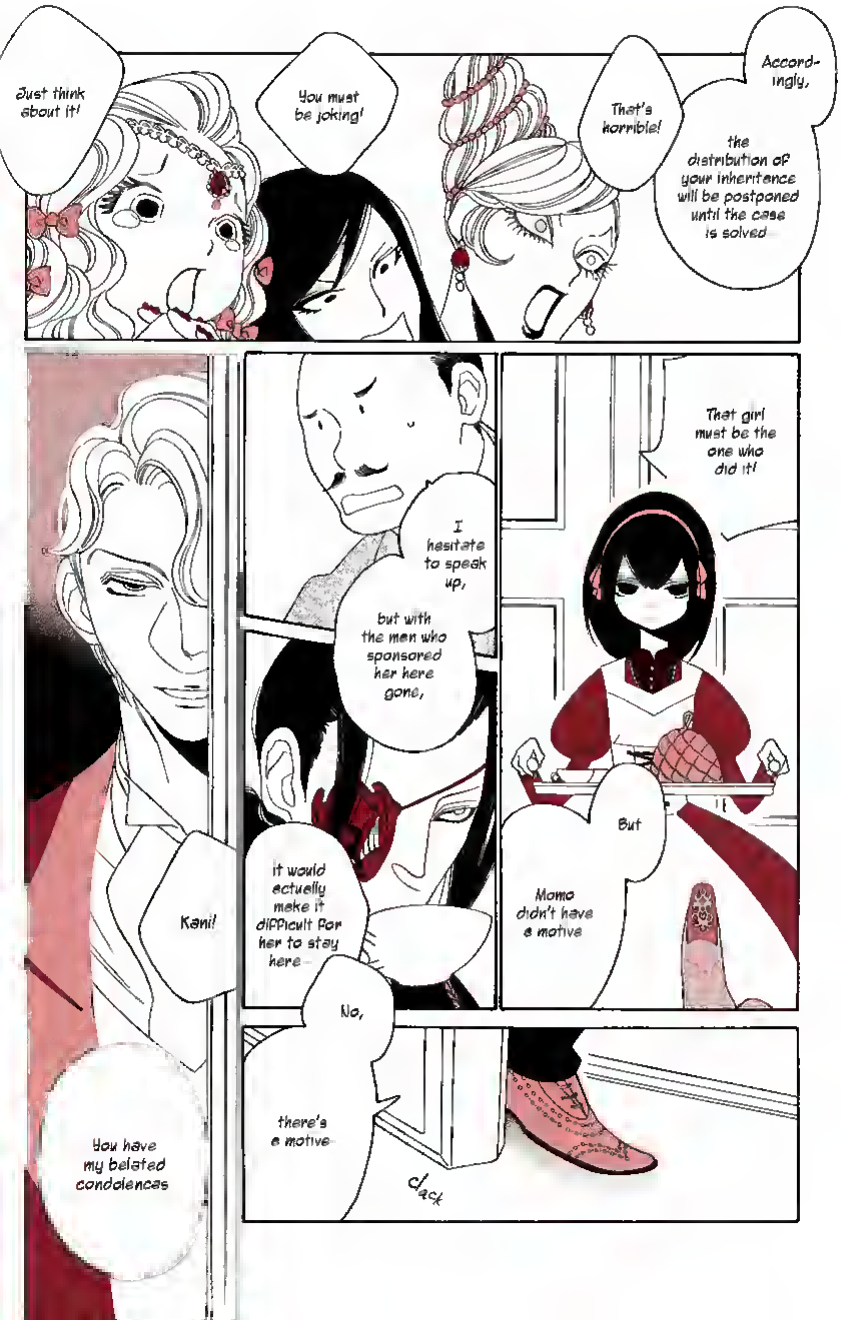
tap
He left behind three daughters
Traditionally the eldest son in the Hijiribara family inherits the family fortune
A few days ago the head of the family died under suspicious conditions
Are you Mr. Hebizuka? We've been expecting you. I will show you to the Hijiribara residence
Are you Mr. Hebizuka? We've been expecting you. I will show you to the Hijiribara residence
It's detective
Thank you for coming all the way out here
It's fine, I enjoy traveling
and one mute adopted daughter
Mr. Hebizuka!

The eldest daughter Hitomi An (out of work) actress.
Suspicious! How so?
He was sick for some time!
It was just heart failure
Next oldest is Mitsuko, who heads up a company
Still, it could have been murder
There needs to be an autopsy.
Third is Yoshie, a fortune-teller.
An autopsy!? How dreadful!!
Think of the damage to his soul!!
His fourth daughter Momo is a maid
Oh, thanks.
Hey, when will the inheritance be distributed?
First we have to be certain of the cause of death...
There are no men in the family, so I'm sure it'll be a three-way split.
What! Surely the eldest gets priority!
Equal split!
No, well, actually...

Really,
we don't know whose child she is,
and yet suddenly he shows up with her and adopts her...
It was a complete shock!
Huh?
But she's adopted!?
That can't be right!
Once you add in Mama, it's a four-way split
Yeah!
And then he works her as hard as a servant,
having her take care of everything from his food to his bedpans
She must've resented him plenty!
Hah, figures you'd know.
But he's in London now.
Enough of your insinuations.
I called him earlier
He said he'd fly back today.
Well,
the lawyers would know the exact details...
Shall I call for a legal advisor?
Have Kani come
Yes, do

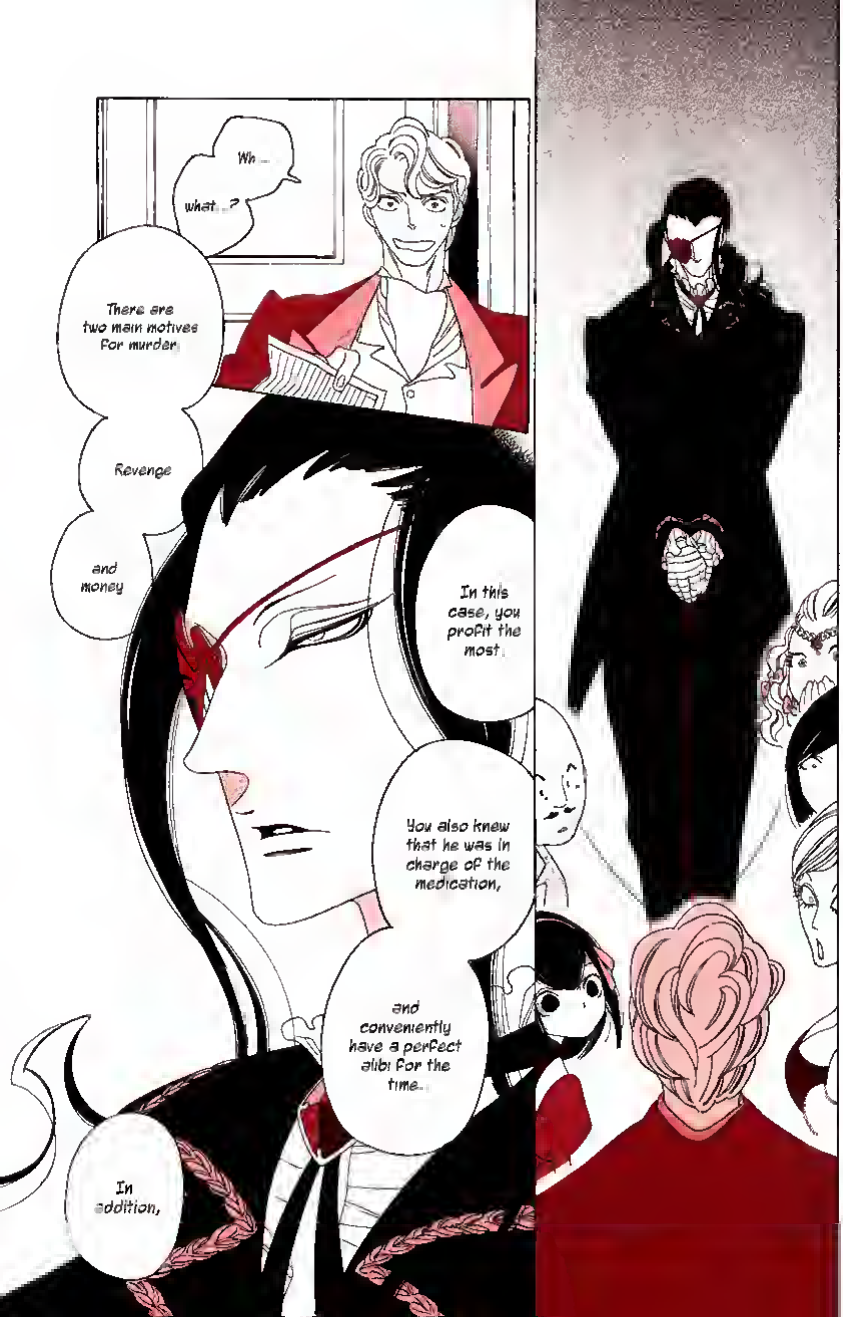

Who was in charge of his medication?
Seems it was after that that his health went downhill
So last night was the same as always,
he took his evening medicine and...
Still,
knowing he would pass soon, your father must have wanted to leave something to his adopted daughter...
That's not...
...
And everyone in the household knew that, I assume?
But well,
being surrounded by those dreadful sisters must be terrible for you.
Click

Huh?
Did you just talk ?
tap
tap
tap
...
This morning we received the results of the autopsy
It seems that there was poison in his system
And so
this is now officially a murder case


Just think about it!
You must be joking!
That's horrible!
Accordingly, the distribution of your inheritance will be postponed until the case is solved
That girl must be the one who did it!
I hesitate to speak up,
but with the men who sponsored her here gone,
it would actually make it difficult for her to stay here
But Momo didn't have a motive
No, there's a motive
clack
Kani!
You have my belated condolences

What do you mean?
This
rustle
You see, Kazuhiro was named the successor to the Hyuribara Family.
rustle rustle
Kazu
him.
Yes,
Huh...?
He's a boy!?
Huh...?
...
It's true

I am a boy
But I didn't kill him
Enough with your denials!
Kazuhiro, you were in charge of his medicine!
You decided to kill the head of the house to inherit the family fortune, didn't you!?
But now that you're a murderer, of course you'll be disqualified!
And now...
Once Kan has married the eldest daughter,
he will become a son in law and essentially the eldest son.
As the head of the family, the inheritance will pass to him.


Wh...
what...?
There are two main motives for murder.
Revenge
and money
In this case, you profit the most.
You also knew that he was in charge of the medication,
and conveniently have a perfect alibi for the time.
In addition,

Once you know the motive,
the proof is easy to find.
The only person who knew he was a boy
is you.
But
wasn't he in London when Father died?
So how...
He knew that you dosed out the medicine for the whole month at the start of each month
So,

He added the poison on a certain date,
and took on a job that required him to be out of the country that day.
I get it.
Getting picked on by those three harpies
and dressing up like a girl.
Well, I figure
that that was a desperate measure
that your father took to protect his son.
That's right.
I heard you turned down the inheritance?
I'd always planned on leaving there once I grew up.
I've had enough of it.
My mom supposedly looked a lot like his first love,
and I take after my mom.

It's creepy.
That's rather perverted.
So, what are you going to do now?
You're homeless, broke, and don't have a single relative.
You're free.
Well, you are unexpectedly shrewd.
How about I be your boy helper for now, detective?